

System and Method for Managing File System Extended Attributes

ABSTRACT

An extended attribute data page includes extended
5 attribute information about a number of files. The page is
divided into areas, each area corresponding to a different
file. A given area is further divided into a number of
lines containing information about the extended attribute
data. Areas include bitmaps indicating available space in
10 the data space and address information for addressing off-
page data areas. A directory is included of data types
stored in the data area, and additional lines store
extended attribute data. The extended attribute directory
maintains a list of data types currently stored and related
15 information. Including availability information about each
line along with addresses to areas storing extended
attribute data enables the extended attribute manager to
efficiently determine where to place extended attribute
data, mark deleted lines as being available, retrieve data
20 being requested by a process, and modify the contents of a
given extended attribute data type.